

REMARKS***Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration of the information disclosure statement filed February 15, 2005.

Summary of the Response

Upon entry of the response and remarks, claims 18, 30, 31 and 33 are amended, and claims 15-38 currently remain pending with claims 34-38 having been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, claims 15-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riedel et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,631,073, hereinafter "RIEDEL") in view of Ando et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,334,686, hereinafter "ANDO"). Claims 31-33 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present response and remarks, Applicants submit that it is clear that the rejections and objections should be withdrawn, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the

present application. Specific arguments in response to each of the rejections recited in the Office action are set forth below.

1. The rejection of claims 15-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over RIEDEL in view of ANDO.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 15-30 as being unpatentable over RIEDEL in view of ANDO in view of the following remarks.

Applicants note that neither RIEDEL nor ANDO teaches the specific recitation of claim 15 of, “the fibers being immersed 10 μ m to 0.5 mm in the adhesive.” The Office Action notes that ANDO teaches an adhesive coating thickness of 50 microns (second non-final Office Action, page 3, first paragraph). However, Applicants note that the coating thickness taught by ANDO is **different** from the fiber immersion depth as claimed by Applicants. In fact, both RIEDEL and ANDO fail to specifically teach any fiber immersion depth.

The Office Action further notes that absent such limitations of specific type of adhesive composition or limitations pertaining to the type of immersion techniques, the immersion depth as claimed by Applicants would have been inherently met by the prior art, and further, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to adjust the degree of calendaring exerted upon

the adhesive coated non-woven substrate as a function of desired adhesive tackiness and adhesive strength.

In response, Applicants note that RIEDEL does not disclose calendaring a non-woven sheet that has a pressure sensitive adhesive thereon. Rather, even according to the passage specifically relied upon in the Office Action, i.e., col. 23, lines 5-25, of RIEDEL, the calendaring (pattern embossing) is carried out on non-woven sheets which do not carry any adhesive. In fact, Examples 77 and 78 and Comparative Examples 69-79 discussed in col. 23-25 of RIEDEL do not even use an adhesive. In this regard, RIEDEL's teaching of a chemical binding agent (discussed generally in the passage from col. 7, line 60 to col. 8, line 43 of RIEDEL) which is used to bind the fibers of the non-woven sheet, but does not appear to act as an adhesive. For example, in col. 20, lines 17-28, of RIEDEL it is explicitly described that the pressure sensitive adhesive was applied after pattern embossing and application of the chemical binder. Therefore, Applicants specifically claimed fiber immersion depth would not have been inherently present in the prior art because RIEDEL teaches away from Applicants claimed invention and therefore combination of RIEDEL and ANDO would be improper. Moreover, the Office Action does not point to any documentary evidence which would support the inherency argument as set forth in the Office Action.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 15-30 as being unpatentable over RIEDEL in view of ANDO because RIEDEL and ANDO do not

teach or suggest “fibers being immersed 10 μm to 0.5 mm in the adhesive” as claimed in independent claim 15.

Regarding certain dependent claims, Applicants note that RIEDEL and/or ANDO fail to teach certain elements of claims 18, 19, 29, and 30. Namely, RIEDEL and/or ANDO fail to specifically teach a tearing effort as recited in claim 18, the tear resistance, modulus of elongation, and elongation break as recited in claim 19, the adhesive viscosity as recited in claim 29, and the unrolling effort as recited in claim 30. In this regard, the Office Action includes arguments (i.e., tearing effort, tear resistance, modulus of elongation and break, adhesive viscosity, and unrolling effort that these claim recitations) would have been inherent because RIEDEL uses similar materials. However, in view of Applicants arguments with respect to claim 15 above, Applicants respectfully assert that the materials are not similar in view of the fact that Applicant claims a specific fiber immersion depth range and this range is not taught by RIEDEL and/or ANDO and therefore the specific properties recited in claims 18, 19, 29, and 30 would not be inherent. Furthermore, the Office Action does not point to any documentary evidence as to why such properties would have been inherent.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 18, 19, 29, and 30 as being unpatentable over RIEDEL in view of ANDO because the physical properties claimed in claims 18, 19, 29, and 30 would not be inherent in RIEDEL and ANDO because RIEDEL

and ANDO do not teach or suggest "the fibers being immersed 10 μ m to 0.5 mm in the adhesive" as claimed in claim 15.

2. Claims 31-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 31-33, in view of Applicants amendment of claims 31 and 33 incorporating independent claim 15 into claims 31 and 33.

In view of the indication of allowability of claims 31-33 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants submit that claims 31-33 are in conditions for allowance in view of the above noted amendment.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 31-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

If for any reason a check including the amount for any necessary fees is not associated with this file, the undersigned authorizes the charging of any necessary fees not explicitly identified, to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089 in order to maintain pendency of this application.

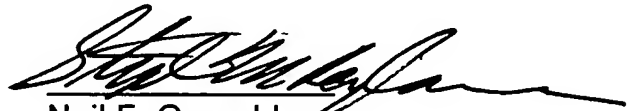
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipates or renders obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 15-38. In addition, the applied documents of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,
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